

I N T E R N A T I O N A L

T E R R O R I S M

TERRORIST INCIDENTS INVOLVING
ARMORED VEHICLES 1980 - 1982



FITE DATA

SECRET

ON 27 AUGUST 1980 IN BEIRUT, LEBANON, THE US AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON, JOHN GUNTHER DEAN, SURVIVED AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. THE AMBASSADOR'S THREE-CAR CONVOY HAD TRAVELLED A SHORT DISTANCE FROM HIS RESIDENCE WHEN IT WAS AMBUSHED BY INDIVIDUALS UTILIZING AUTOMATIC WEAPONS. AN EXPLOSION PRECEDED THE SMALL ARMS FIRE. THE ATTACKERS LEFT BEHIND THEIR PARKED VEHICLE AND FLED INTO THE WOODS WHEN THE EXPLOSION AND THE FIRING FAILED TO STOP THE CONVOY. THIS WAS THE FIRST ATTEMPT ON AN AMERICAN AMBASSADOR'S LIFE IN LEBANON SINCE JUNE 1976, WHEN AMBASSADOR FRANCIS E. MALOY AND ECONOMIC COUNSELOR ROBERT W. WARING WERE KIDNAPPED AND KILLED DURING THE LEBANESE CIVIL WAR. A GROUP CALLING ITSELF THE "FRONT FOR THE LIBERATION OF LEBANON FROM FOREIGNERS" CLAIMED CREDIT FOR THIS LATEST ATTEMPT, CITING "WASHINGTON'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PRESENT SITUATION IN LEBANON" AS THE REASON FOR THE ATTACK. THIS GROUP HAS ALSO CLAIMED CREDIT FOR A 7 JUNE CAR EXPLOSION AT A PALESTINIAN CAMP WHICH INJURED 12 PERSONS, A 17 JUNE CAR EXPLOSION IN FRONT OF A NIGHT CLUB FREQUENTED BY MILITIAMEN OF VARIOUS PARTIES WHICH KILLED TWO PEOPLE AND WOUNDED 25 OTHERS, AND A 17 JUNE CAR EXPLOSION AT THE ENTRANCE TO A PALESTINIAN CAMP WHICH INJURED 12 PEOPLE. [REDACTED]

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SECRET

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CONFIDENTIAL

ON 8 FEBRUARY 1982 IN TEHRAN, IRAN, THE WEST
GERMAN AMBASSADOR ESCAPED INJURY WHEN HIS ARMORED
LIMOUSINE WAS ATTACKED. A GROUP OF MEN SPRANG
OUT , STOPPED HIS CAR ON THE STREET, AND FIRED UPON
IT AT CLOSE RANGE. THE CHAUFFEUR ACCELERATED AND
THEY ESCAPED. A CALLER CLAIMED THE ATTACK FOR
THE AHMAD ZADEH FACTION OF THE FEDAYEEN ORGANIZATION,
A LITTLE-KNOWN SPLINTER GROUP. [REDACTED]

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CONFIDENTIAL

ON 1 MARCH 1982 IN EL SALVADOR, THE VENEZUELAN
AMBASSADOR'S ARMORED VEHICLE WAS HIT BY GUNFIRE
FROM AN AUTOMATIC WEAPON. THE BULLET STRUCK THE
CAR UNDERNEATH AND DID NO SERIOUS DAMAGE. THE
VENEZUELAN HAVE NO IDEA IF THIS ATTACK WAS
DIRECTED AGAINST THEM OR SOME OTHER TARGET MOVING
IN THE HEAVY TRAFFIC. SECURITY PRECAUTIONS HAVE
BEEN TAKEN.

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CONFIDENTIAL

ON 17 APRIL 1982 IN BEIRUT, LEBANON, MAJOR FREDRICK C. HOF, AN ASSISTANT MILITARY ATTACHE AT THE US EMBASSY WAS WOUNDED BY UNIDENTIFIED GUNMEN. A CIVILIAN PASSENGER RIDING WITH THE VICTIM WAS UNHURT. THE ATTACK TOOK PLACE NEAR THE CROSSING POINT BETWEEN CHRISTIAN EAST BEIRUT AND MOSLEM WEST BEIRUT WHERE THE US EMBASSY IS LOCATED. THE CAR WAS ROUTINELY STOPPED AND WAVED ON AT A CHECKPOINT BY A PALESTINE LIBERATION ARMY GUARD. AS HOF STARTED TO DRIVE OFF HE HEARD THE FIRST SHOTS BEING FIRED AT THE VEHICLE, DUCKED BELOW THE DASHBOARD OF THE PARTIALLY ARMORED CAR, AND DROVE AWAY. HE WAS HIT TWICE ONCE IN THE SHOULDER, BY SHOTS FIRED THROUGH THE LEFT FRONT WINDOW. THE VEHICLE WAS HIT BY SEVERAL ADDITIONAL ROUNDS.

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